



For Immediate Release

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Columbus Breaks Ground on New Sustainable Fueling Station

Mayor Michael B. Coleman was joined today by Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, representatives of Clean Fuels Ohio and Columbia Gas of Ohio to break ground on the city's first compressed natural gas station, the largest fast-fill station of its kind in Ohio and likely in the Midwest. The station will be located at 4211 Groves Road in Columbus and is expected to be open this fall.

"This is more than just a fueling station," Mayor Coleman said. "This marks a moment in history as we transition to a diversified and cleaner fuel for our fleet and our community."

Columbus expects to eliminate about 40,000 gallons of diesel fuel per year, saving approximately \$60,000 to \$90,000 per year in fuel costs. CNG is averaging \$1.50 per gas gallon equivalent compared with more than \$4 per gallon of diesel. In addition, CNG reduces carbon emissions by as much as 90 percent. The initial infusion of 24 CNG vehicles for the city will reduce emissions as much as if 96 cars were taken off the road annually.

"Columbus is committed to being a regional and national leader in the clean fuel movement," said Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, chair of the Finance Committee. "This fueling station, along with our investment in CNG powered cars and trucks, positions Columbus to be at the forefront of developing energy efficient transportation at a cost savings for our residents."

The City of Columbus was supported through a grant Clean Fuels Ohio received from the U.S. Department of Energy in 2009. The total cost of the CNG station is \$4.2 million, with \$1.1 million coming from the Department of Energy. While the station is for use by the City of Columbus fleet, it will also be open to area fleets and the general public.

"We're excited for the station to open later this fall," Clean Fuels Ohio Executive Director, Sam Spofforth said. "With the rise in diesel and gasoline prices we have seen an increased interest from fleets to convert to CNG. This station will offer businesses, governments and individual motorists in our area another option and help the City save thousands of dollars each year."

Natural gas offers significant environmental, energy security, and economic benefits, producing lower tailpipe emissions and greenhouse gases than diesel or gasoline. Also, unlike gasoline, natural gas is non-toxic, non-corrosive, and non-carcinogenic and presents no threat to soil, surface water, or groundwater.

This green fleet initiative is part of the Ohio Advanced Transportation Partnership that includes 27 partners across Ohio led by Clean Fuels Ohio. In total, CFO received \$11million in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Energy, Clean Cities Program for its partners.

Columbus has been a long-time leader in greening its fleet, voted 7th greenest fleet in North America by Government Fleet in 2010 and repeatedly recognized by many organizations for its efforts. As part of Mayor Coleman's Get Green Columbus initiative, Columbus has a comprehensive Green Fleet Action Plan that lays out specific strategies to reduce petroleum use and increase use of cleaner fuels such as electric, E85, biodiesel and CNG. Since the Action Plan was put into place in 2008, Columbus has seen a reduction of overall fuel consumption by almost 2 percent, a significant increase in the use of bio-fuels, retrofitting of all eligible diesel vehicles with emission reduction and anti-idling equipment and the procurement of green vehicles.

Clean Fuels Ohio is a state-wide non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the use of cleaner, domestic fuels and efficient vehicles to the transportation industry, government, and the general public. Through programs like [Ohio Green Fleets](#), CFO provides technical support to transportation professionals, advocates for sustainable transportation energy policies, and serves as a resource clearinghouse for fleets, policy makers, and the public. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, CFO works extensively around the state in collaboration with local partners. For more information on CFO or other projects that they are working on, please visit: www.CleanFuelsOhio.org.